

# Retzer Nature Center Celebrates its new Learning Center!

We are delighted to announce the grand opening of the new Retzer Environmental Learning Center, featuring a new exhibit hall devoted to the Unseen World! Highlights in the exhibit area include hands-on rock and soil samples, animal tracks and signs, and the hidden world of the Prairie Underground!

We also invite you to explore our new 700 gallon exhibit of native, Southeast Wisconsin game fish. Take time to visit our developing rain and butterfly gardens; and visit with our teaching animals as they settle into their custom built homes. Enjoy a program in our new community room teaching center, which offers a flexible set-up for a wide range of discovery experiences!



We are also pleased to announce the opening of the new **Charles Z. Horwitz Planetarium**, located on the grounds of the nature center and operated by the school district of Waukesha. The new planetarium features a 40-foot diameter dome, 94 seats, and a special hands-on science exploration area.

Questions? Please call us at (262) 896-8007. For reservations calls (262) 548-7801.

**Come Celebrate with us!**

## Retzer Nature Center 2005/2006 Fees

### Programs at Retzer Nature Center: (3 week lead time required)

<u>Students</u>	<u>1 Hour</u>	<u>2 Hours</u>	<u>Add. 30 Mins.</u>
1-10	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$15.00
11-15	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$22.50
16-20	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$30.00
21-25	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$37.50
26-30	\$60.00	\$120.00	\$45.00
31-35	\$70.00	\$140.00	\$52.50
36-40	\$80.00	\$160.00	\$60.00
41-45	\$90.00	\$180.00	\$67.50
46-50	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$75.00
51-55	\$110.00	\$220.00	\$82.50
56-60	\$120.00	\$240.00	\$90.00
Etc.	Etc.	Etc.	Etc.

For Groups larger than 60 - Please contact (262) 548-7801

### Traveling Programs: (30 students maximum per program.) Please see the above fee rates.

### Additional Round Trip Mileage Charge for Traveling Programs:

<u>Miles</u>	<u>Charge</u>
<10	\$5.00
11-20	\$10.00
21-30	\$15.00
31-40	\$20.00
41-50	\$25.00
Etc.	Etc.

### Snowshoe Rental (per pair) \$5.50 for half day \$9.00 for full day

### Water Resource Center Call for information



## Retzer Environmental Learning Center Environmental Education Programs for School Groups

### Our philosophy:

At Retzer Nature Center, our goal is to teach students the workings of the local land system while they strive to make personal connections to nature. Such an approach is the best way to foster an early understanding and appreciation for the land, one that will last a lifetime.

### Our approach:

We use a two-layer teaching approach in all of our programs. First we use a hands-on activity that encourages students to touch, smell, listen to, and observe the natural world around them. Naturalists then take this opportunity to interpret and expand on specific ecological concepts.

**Retzer Nature Center**  
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Fax: (262) 896-6822  
**Program Reservations: (262) 548-7801**  
www.waukeshacountyparks.com

Waukesha County  
Department of Parks and Land Use,  
Park System Division

*Yours Naturally!*



Waukesha County Park System  
Recreation • Education • Preservation

# Nature Storytime Programs!

For students in **Pre K (age 4) -1st grades**, we offer *Nature Storytime*, a collection of programs that blend the joy of reading with the wonder of nature. Lessons can take place at Retzer Nature Center or you may opt to have one of our naturalists travel to your classroom!

## Traveling:

The Naturalist will visit your school, bringing a variety of hands-on nature objects for your students to explore. We will then introduce a children's book and craft, all centered around a theme from nature. *Programs last 1 hour. Maximum 30 students per program.*

## At Retzer Nature Center:

As in the classroom, we base the program around a children's picture book, but in this case the lesson takes place on the trails! Children hike the grounds, enjoy a story, and have the option of making a craft. *Programs last 1 hour without craft, 1.5 hours with craft.*

## Year-Round:

### **Amazing Animals\***

Meet a handful of live Retzer animals and learn what makes them so special. Stories and crafts change with the season.

### **Batty for Bats**

Explore the secret world of bats! Learn to appreciate these often misunderstood mammals. Children will hear the tale of a brave little bat, and will make a bat craft to take home.

### **Fine Feathered Friends\***

Explore the beautiful world of birds; listen to common bird songs, look at nests, feathers, and wings, and enjoy a visit with our Retzer doves.

### **Sunset Switch**

What happens to the animals when the sun goes down? Some go to bed, while others wake up! Learn all about this mysterious time. Crafts will vary with the season.

### **Turtle Time\***

Learn more about the life of a box turtle. See where and how she spends her days. What does she eat? Where does she hide? Meet real live box turtles from Retzer Nature Center and end the program with a turtle-time craft.

\*These programs include live animals.



## March - May:

### **Spring Has Sprung!**

This program is a celebration of spring! Explore the signs of life in the spring as we look at caterpillars, tadpoles, seeds, eggs, and more.

### **Time to Wake**

Join Bear and her many friends as they wake from winter hibernation and head out in search of food.

A perfect compliment to *Time to Sleep*.

## June - September:

### **A Day in the Life of a Worm\***

Learn what your life would be like as a worm. How do you help the flowers and plants grow? Touch and explore these composting creatures and make a wiggly worm craft.

### **Spiders, Slugs, Bugs, and Ughs\***

Look under a rock. What do you see? Pill bugs, slugs, spiders, and more! Come get down in the dirt and discover the world of crawly creatures.

## October - February:

### **Gathering Time\***

The fall is here and it's gathering time! All of the animals are making plans, and each has something of value to offer. Enjoy an autumn tale of field mice and visit with the Retzer gerbils.

### **Time to Sleep**

Learn more about hibernation as we read cozy stories about animals in winter. Touch real bear fur and make miniature bear dens to take home, perfect for a favorite stuffed animal!

### **Who's Been Here?**

What kinds of signs do animals leave in winter? Use clues from nature to solve a cold-weather mystery. We will also make special cards featuring animal track prints!



## Year-Round Programs at Retzer Nature Center:

### Outdoor Hikes:

#### **Nature Discovery**

**Grades Pre-K (age 4) – 6**

This program blends sensory exploration with an exciting nature collection hike. Naturalists serve as guides and interpreters while students seek out natural treasures.

*Grades Pre K (age 4) - 3:1 hour*

*Grades 4-6:2 hours*



#### **Animal Survival**

**Grades 1-3**

Explore wildlife habitats from the view point of the animals. You'll need to consider issues of water, cover, food, and space and decide just who could survive in a given habitat.

*2 hours*

#### **Wilderness Explorers**

**Grades 4-8**

In this creative program, students assume the roles of early Wisconsin pioneers or Native American tribes, experiencing the wilderness for the very first time. How did these groups survive and flourish in the woods and prairies of Wisconsin?

*2 hours*

#### **Reading the Landscape**

**Grades 6-12**

Learn to read the land around you. Students work in teams to investigate different study areas, using field equipment and observation to uncover the fascinating relationships within our local ecology.

*2 hours*

### Indoor Talks:

#### **The Ins and Outs of Animals:**

**A Closer Look at Adaptations**

**Grades 1-6**

Students will examine hands-on science specimens and visit with our teaching animals as they explore the concepts of animal adaptations.

*1 hour*

#### **The Unseen World**

**Grades 1-6**

Utilizing our teaching animals and new exhibit hall, this indoor talk looks at the unseen aspects of the natural world, from camouflaged insects to life underground. (Topics will vary with the seasons.)

*1 hour*

### 30 Minute Add-On Activities:

#### **Create-a-Critter**

**Grades K-5**

Create a make-believe critter using the components of habitat: water, food, shelter, and space. Let your imagination run wild!

#### **Owl Pellet Dissection**

**Grades 1-10**

Take apart an owl pellet and reconstruct its most recent meal! This is a fascinating way to study owl adaptations.

#### **Web of Life**

**Grades K-6**

Make physical connections between living things within a common eco-system and watch as a web of life emerges!

#### **Extend-a-Hike**

Add an extra 30 minutes to any Hike or Talk!

## Year-Round Traveling Programs:

*Can't come to us? Have our Naturalists visit your school! We offer a variety of exciting Traveling Programs for all ages! You can also arrange a follow-up visit to the Nature Center and we will compliment your Traveling Program with an Outdoor Hike!*

#### **Animal Adaptations (Live Animal Talk)**

**Grades 2-8 (30 students max per session)**

Enjoy a visit from the Retzer teaching animals! See how an animal's physical and behavioral traits can help it to survive, as we explore the concepts of habitat and adaptation.

*1.5 hours*

#### **The Ins and Outs of Animals**

**(Live Animal Talk)**

**Grades 2-8 (30 students max per session)**

This live animal program explores animal body parts, both inside and out: look at egg and scat replicas, examine skulls and owl pellets, and meet our teaching animals.

*1.5 hours*

#### **Nature Storytime**

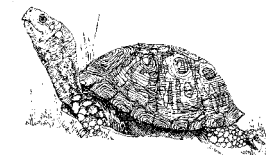
**Grades Pre K (age 4) -1**

*(30 students max per session)*

Have one of our naturalists visit your school, bringing a variety of hands-on nature objects for your students to explore. All Storytime programs include a children's book and craft centered around a theme from nature.

*(Additional details elsewhere in brochure.)*

*1 hour*



## **Seasonal Programs:**

*In addition to our Year-Round programs, we offer the following programs by season.*

### **April - December:**

#### **Nature Storytime Hike (New!)**

***Grades Pre K (age 4) -1***

This program is all about reading and roaming! Teachers will select a storytime program (topics are listed elsewhere in brochure) and our naturalists will conduct an outdoor nature hike designed to complement the storytime theme. Students may make a craft to take home for a small additional fee.

*1 hour without craft*

*1.5 hour with craft*



#### **Orienteering**

***Grades 4-12***

Come put your math, art, and reading skills to use as you learn how to use a map and compass! Once mastered, we will take an orienteering hike. GPS units may be added on request.

*2 hour program without GPS units*

*2.5 hour program with GPS units*

### **May - October:**

#### **Explore the Pond**

***Grades 2-6***

Students investigate pond ecology through observation, temperature readings, and an in-depth study of aquatic organisms.

Come ready to get muddy!

*Limit 30 students*

*2 hours*

#### **Insect Biodiversity Study**

***Grades 2-8***

Students explore the insect world using sweep nets, guide books, and hand lenses, and then sample varied insect communities.

*2 hours*

#### **Tree I.D.**

***Grades 3-8***

Take an exciting look at the world of trees! Learn how to use a simple key to identify dozens of local trees. From leaf type, bark, and the formation of branches, all trees leave clues that help us determine what they are.

*2 hours*

### **Traveling Programs** (1.5 hours)

#### **Pond Investigation**

Use dip nets and other tools to study a pond or wetland on your own school campus. Our naturalists will provide you with equipment and will help you to interpret your findings.

#### **Insect Sweep**

For schools with a natural area on campus, our naturalists offer sweep nets and other tools for catching and investigating insects.

### **September - November:**

#### **Explore the Prairie**

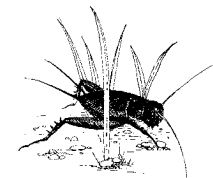
***Grades 1-3***

***Grades 4-6***

The beautiful autumn prairie is a place of wonder and discovery! Students study plants, root systems, soil, and insects as they sweep through the prairie and uncover its secrets. Older students will learn the basics of botany, and further their understanding of the prairie as a community.

*Grades 1-2: 1 hour*

*Grades 3-6: 2 hours*



### **December - March:**

#### **Animal Tracks & Signs**

***Grades 1-12***



An indoor slide show and outdoor hike, done with or without snowshoes, has students searching for animal tracks, patterns, and other signs of wildlife.

*2 hour program without snowshoes*

*2.5 hour program with snowshoes\**

\*Snowshoe Rental Fee additional \$2.75/person.